

Note on the Amphibious Habit of Lycosa.—Dr. McCook alluded to another interesting fact in the life-history of *Lycosa*, brought to his attention by Mr. Alan Gentry. This gentleman, during the winter, visited a pond in the vicinity of Philadelphia (Germantown) which was frozen over. He cut a slab from the ice about eight to ten feet from the bank, and was surprised to see several spiders running about in the water. They were passing from point to point by silken lines stretched underneath the surface between certain water-plants. Several were captured, but unfortunately the specimens were not preserved. Mr. Thomas G. Gentry, who saw them, says that they were Lycosids, and from his description of the eyes he is evidently correct. It is a remarkable and novel fact to find these creatures thus living in full health and activity in mid-winter *within* the waters of a frozen pond, and so far from the bank in which the burrows of their congeners are so commonly found. It has been believed, heretofore, and doubtless it is generally true, that the Lycosids winter in deep burrows in the ground, sealed up tightly to maintain a higher temperature. But the above observation opens up a new and very strange chapter in the winter behavior of these spiders, as well as in the amphibious nature of their habits.

Pentastomum proboscideum.—Prof. LEIDY exhibited specimens of this parasite, presented to him by Mr. Norman Spang, of Etna, Pa., who recently obtained them in Florida, from the lung of a large rattlesnake, *Crotalus adamanteus*. They are cylindrical incurved, annulated, largest and rounded at the head, tapering behind, and becoming again larger and rounded at the end; and terminating ventrally in a short conical point. There are six of them, with the following measurements:—9 lines long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines at the head; 13 lines by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines; 24 by $2\frac{1}{2}$; 28 by $2\frac{1}{2}$; 30 by 3, and 31 by 3. The species was first found by Humboldt in *Crotalus horridus*. It is common in the *Boa constrictor*, in which Professor Leidy had also observed it several times. It has likewise been found in a number of other serpents. Other species occur in different mammals, including man, reptiles and fishes. These singular parasites are regarded as the most degraded form of arachnida, in the mature stage being reduced to a worm-like, limbless body.

MAY 20.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Eighteen persons present.

The Nature of a Fasciated Branch.—At the meeting of the Botanical Section on the 12th, Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN called attention to a paper contributed by him to the *Proceedings of the*